

AM

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/064,100	PETRICK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Allen C. Ho	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 11 June 2002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 April 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>0903</u> |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. <u>0702</u> . | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kirk Vander Leest (Reg. No. 34,036) on September 24, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

- (1) Claim 7, line 5, "reading" has been replaced by --connected through data lines to read--.
- (2) Claim 8, line 1, "further comprising" has been replaced by --wherein said data lines further comprise--.
- (3) Claim 11, line 1, "further comprising" has been replaced by --wherein said data lines further comprise--.
- (4) Claim 15, line 4, "connecting" has been replaced by --connected--.
- (5) Claim 15, line 7, "said groups" has been replaced by --said first and second sets of scan lines comprising groups, each group--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-22 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1-6, the prior art discloses an x-ray detector comprising: detector elements; first and second sets of sensing circuits that are connected to the detector elements through first and second set of data lines, respectively; and scan lines connected to each of the detector elements. However, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest that at least one data line from the first set of data lines is interspersed with the second set of data lines, as claimed in claim 1.

With regard to claims 7-14, the prior art discloses a detector comprising: detector elements; first and second sets of sensing circuits connected to first and second sets of detector elements through data lines; However, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest that first and second sets of scan lines comprising groups including at least one consecutive scan line connecting to each detector elements in one of the rows and columns, the first and second sets of scan lines connecting to the first and second sets of detector elements, respectively, the groups included in the first set of scan lines being adjacent to and alternating with groups included in the second set of scan lines, as claimed in claim 7.

With regard to claims 15-22, the prior art discloses a method for acquiring x-ray data within a region of interest, the method comprising the steps of: defining a region of interest in an x-ray detector; exposing the x-ray detector to a radiation field; reading detector elements in the region of interest. However, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a method for acquiring x-ray data within a region of interest, comprising the steps of: simultaneously reading detector elements included in a first group included in the first set of scan lines and a second group included in the second set of scan lines with first and second sensing circuits, respectively, the

first and second groups of scan lines being included in the region of interest, as claimed in claim 15.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- (1) Meulenbrugge *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 6,222,901 B1) disclosed an x-ray detector comprising two sensing circuits.
- (2) Nagai (U. S. Patent No. 6,208,710 B1) disclosed an x-ray detector that allows a user to arbitrarily select an imaging area.
- (3) Meulenbrugge *et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 6,028,913) disclosed an x-ray detector comprising two sensing circuits.
- (4) Dillen (U. S. Patent No. 5,530,935) disclosed an x-ray examination apparatus that accelerates image readout by discarding image outside the relevant image.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen C. Ho whose telephone number is (703) 308-6189. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 2882

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached at (703) 308-4858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0530.

Allen C. Ho
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2882

ACH ACH 92503


EDWARD J. GLICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER